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Mr. Matt Rose
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation
2650 Lou Menk Drive, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 961057
Fort Worth, Texas 76161-0057

Dear Mr. Rose,

I write to express my deep concern regarding the problems associated with grain transportation in North Dakota.

As you know, crops have piled up across North Dakota due to the lack of rail service. This is causing serious financial hardships for farmers and elevator operators unable to move their crops in a timely fashion.

The impact is enormous. The lack of rail service has forced many elevators to pile crops on the ground and in some cases turn away customers because the elevators are already filled to capacity. When the elevators are full, farmers go unpaid because they cannot even deliver their crop to the elevator. Meanwhile the crops that remain piled outside continue to deteriorate until rail service arrives.

While I understand that this was a good year for production in North Dakota, the fact is that much of the service which is now late was purchased months ago as part of your Certificate of Transportation (COTs) program. There also appears to be a huge disparity between the service provided to the large shuttle loaders and the smaller operators including unit train elevators. I understand that shuttle loaders are not facing significant delays compared to the smaller elevators that are being forced to wait weeks or months for service.

As the dominant provider of grain transportation in North Dakota your company has a responsibility to meet its commitments and to treat all of your customers fairly. I want to know what plans your company has for addressing this problem.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate